



Hear the words for this Unit pronounced, defined, and used in sentences at [www.vocabularyworkshop.com](http://www.vocabularyworkshop.com).

## Definitions

Note carefully the spelling, pronunciation, part(s) of speech, and definition(s) of each of the following words. Then write the word in the blank space(s) in the illustrative sentence(s) following. Finally, study the lists of synonyms and antonyms given at the end of each entry.

**1. amiss**  
(ə mis')

(*adj.*) faulty, imperfect, not as it should be; (*adv.*) in a mistaken or improper way, wrongly

Under the circumstances it would not be \_\_\_\_\_ to offer our congratulations.

SYNONYM: (*adj., adv.*) awry

ANTONYM: (*adv.*) properly

**2. brawl**  
(brôl)

(*n.*) a noisy quarrel or fight; (*v.*) to quarrel or fight noisily

The noise coming from the classroom sounded more like a \_\_\_\_\_ than a debate.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) scuffle, donnybrook; (*v.*) spar, scrap

**3. detest**  
(di test')

(*v.*) to hate, dislike very much, loathe

Children who dislike green vegetables often \_\_\_\_\_ spinach.

SYNONYMS: despise, abhor

ANTONYMS: relish, love, admire, esteem

**4. domestic**  
(də mes' tik)

(*adj.*) native to a country, not foreign; relating to the life or affairs of a household; (*n.*) a household servant

The newspaper is filled with information about our country's \_\_\_\_\_ affairs.

When my grandmother first came to this country, she took a job as a \_\_\_\_\_.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) household, native; (*n.*) servant

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) foreign, alien

**5. flagrant**  
(flā' grənt)

(*adj.*) extremely bad, glaring; scandalous, notorious

Crossing against the light shows a \_\_\_\_\_ disregard for the law.

SYNONYMS: blatant, gross, outrageous

ANTONYMS: petty, piddling, trifling, inconsequential

**6. flaw**  
(flô)

(*n.*) a slight fault, defect, crack

We noticed a \_\_\_\_\_ in the plan to start building the house before the spring rains.

SYNONYMS: imperfection, blemish

ANTONYMS: faultlessness, perfection



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**7. fledgling**  
(flej' lin)

(*n.*) an inexperienced person, beginner; a young bird about to leave the nest; (*adj.*) inexperienced, budding

We placed the \_\_\_\_\_ back in its nest.

A \_\_\_\_\_ police officer appeared on the scene and wisely called for assistance.

SYNONYMS: (*n.*) novice, tyro, neophyte

ANTONYMS: (*n.*) pro, expert, veteran

**8. fluster**  
(fləs' tər)

(*v.*) to make or become confused, agitated, or nervous;  
(*n.*) a state of confusion or agitation

During the trial, the judge told the attorney not to \_\_\_\_\_ the witness.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) agitate, rattle, disconcert

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) reassure, soothe, quiet

**9. foremost**  
(fôr' mōst)

(*adj.*) chief, most important, primary; (*adv.*) in the first place

Music is \_\_\_\_\_ among my interests.

First and \_\_\_\_\_, you must call home to let your family know you'll be late.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) leading, principal, paramount

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) hindmost, last, secondary

**10. momentum**  
(mō ment' əm)

(*n.*) the force or speed with which something moves

The presidential campaign gained \_\_\_\_\_ once the first primary was over.

SYNONYMS: drive, thrust, impetus

**11. notable**  
(nōt' ə bəl)

(*adj.*) striking, remarkable; (*n.*) a person who is well known, distinguished, or outstanding in some way

Being chosen for the team was a \_\_\_\_\_ event in our lives.

The party was attended by \_\_\_\_\_ from the film world.

SYNONYMS: (*adj.*) noteworthy, impressive

ANTONYMS: (*adj.*) undistinguished, unremarkable; (*n.*) unknown

**12. nurture**  
(nər' chər)

(*v.*) to bring up, care for, train, nourish; (*n.*) rearing, training, upbringing

It is wonderful to watch chimpanzees \_\_\_\_\_ their young.

The \_\_\_\_\_ they received as children served them well as they grew into adulthood.

SYNONYMS: (*v.*) raise, rear, foster

ANTONYMS: (*v.*) neglect, ignore, discourage, hinder



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**13. paradox**  
(par' ə dāks)

(*n.*) a self-contradictory statement that on closer examination proves true; a person or thing with seemingly contradictory qualities

It is a \_\_\_\_\_ to say that youth is wasted on the young.

SYNONYMS: riddle, enigma, anomaly, absurdity

**14. perjury**  
(pər' jə rē)

(*n.*) the act of swearing to a lie

The witness was convicted of \_\_\_\_\_ and was sentenced to serve two years in prison.

SYNONYM: false witness

**15. presume**  
(pri züm')

(*v.*) to take for granted, assume or suppose; to dare, take upon oneself, take liberties

The counselors \_\_\_\_\_ that the job they had last summer will be theirs this summer as well.

SYNONYMS: surmise, trespass, infringe

**16. prior**  
(pri' ə)

(*adj.*) earlier, former

Unfortunately, the governor had a \_\_\_\_\_ appointment and could not meet with the class.

SYNONYMS: previous, anterior

ANTONYMS: subsequent, later, ensuing, following

**17. proficient**  
(prə fish' ənt)

(*adj.*) skilled, expert, or capable in any field or activity

Dad knows his way around the kitchen and is quite a \_\_\_\_\_ cook.

SYNONYMS: competent, adept, able

ANTONYMS: incompetent, inept, unskilled, ignorant

**18. salvo**  
(sal' vō)

(*n.*) a burst of gunfire or cannon shot, often as a tribute or salute; a sudden burst of anything; a spirited verbal attack

The audience erupted in a \_\_\_\_\_ of laughter.

SYNONYMS: barrage, volley

**19. vigilant**  
(vij' ə lənt)

(*adj.*) wide-awake, alert, watchful

The \_\_\_\_\_ guards paced back and forth in front of the barracks.

SYNONYMS: attentive, on one's toes

ANTONYMS: sleepy, inattentive, unobservant

**20. wrath**  
(rath)

(*n.*) intense anger

In Greek and Roman myths characters fear the \_\_\_\_\_ of the gods.

SYNONYMS: rage, fury, ire, choler, indignation

ANTONYMS: favor, approval, pleasure, blessing

## Completing the Sentence

1. In the old days, when \_\_\_\_\_ firing \_\_\_\_\_
2. It's a fact that \_\_\_\_\_
3. I must warn you \_\_\_\_\_ charge of \_\_\_\_\_
4. I wouldn't call \_\_\_\_\_ "minor lapse of \_\_\_\_\_"
5. The minister said \_\_\_\_\_
6. Her parents \_\_\_\_\_ and taking her \_\_\_\_\_
7. Some people thought \_\_\_\_\_ or Igor Stravinsky \_\_\_\_\_
8. We must be \_\_\_\_\_ community and \_\_\_\_\_
9. I have no way \_\_\_\_\_ had a good reason \_\_\_\_\_
10. I well remember \_\_\_\_\_
11. In most respects \_\_\_\_\_ important \_\_\_\_\_
12. We suspected \_\_\_\_\_ home from school \_\_\_\_\_
13. Like a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ son is preparing \_\_\_\_\_
14. At what point did \_\_\_\_\_ over?
15. When two players \_\_\_\_\_ night's game, \_\_\_\_\_
16. The speaker was \_\_\_\_\_ disturbed by the \_\_\_\_\_
17. Though his car \_\_\_\_\_

## Completing the Sentence

From the words for this unit, choose the one that best completes each of the following sentences. Write the word in the space provided.

1. In the old days, wooden battleships saluted their victorious admiral by repeatedly firing \_\_\_\_\_ of cannon shot from their decks.
2. It's a fact that some important battles of the American Revolution occurred \_\_\_\_\_ to the signing of the Declaration of Independence.
3. I must warn you again that if you fail to tell the truth, you may lay yourself open to a charge of \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I wouldn't call such a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ and premeditated lie merely a "minor lapse of memory."
5. The minister saw from the statistics that imported goods were cutting into the \_\_\_\_\_ market.
6. Her parents \_\_\_\_\_ her musical talents by hiring the finest teachers and taking her to hear the performances of great musicians.
7. Some people truly love the music of such modern composers as Arnold Schoenberg or Igor Stravinsky; others absolutely \_\_\_\_\_ it.
8. We must be \_\_\_\_\_ in recognizing the early signs of decay in our community and move quickly to improve conditions.
9. I have no way of knowing for sure why she left, but I \_\_\_\_\_ that she had a good reason for doing so.
10. I well remember how often during my childhood I felt the full force of my parents' \_\_\_\_\_ when I had done something wrong.
11. In most respects she is a fine person, but excessive stubbornness is the one important \_\_\_\_\_ in her character.
12. We suspected that something was \_\_\_\_\_ when he did not return home from school at the usual time.
13. Like a(n) \_\_\_\_\_ eagle about to leave the nest for the first time, our son is preparing to spend his first summer away from home.
14. At what point does a spinning top lose sufficient \_\_\_\_\_ to topple over?
15. When two players suddenly started to throw punches at each other during last night's game, an ugly bench-clearing \_\_\_\_\_ ensued.
16. The speaker went right on with his speech, in no way \_\_\_\_\_ or disturbed by the jeers and catcalls of a few rowdy hecklers.
17. Though his career as a whole was not particularly distinguished, he did score one \_\_\_\_\_ success on Broadway a few years ago.



18. How do you explain the fact that some students who do poorly in math are highly \_\_\_\_\_ in figuring out batting averages?
19. \_\_\_\_\_ among her many outstanding qualities is her ability to understand the points of view of other people.
20. That terrible instruments of war should in fact prove useful as guardians of the peace is one of the \_\_\_\_\_ of modern life.

## Synonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is **the same or most nearly the same** in meaning as the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

1. felt his enemy's **fury** \_\_\_\_\_
2. continued to roll due to its own **force** \_\_\_\_\_
3. under the eye of the **watchful** officer \_\_\_\_\_
4. did not **rattle** the experienced pilot \_\_\_\_\_
5. was responsible for a variety of **household** chores \_\_\_\_\_
6. witnessed a violent street **scuffle** \_\_\_\_\_
7. committed the act of **lying** during the trial \_\_\_\_\_
8. a really **impressive** effort \_\_\_\_\_
9. became a **skilled** gymnast after much practice \_\_\_\_\_
10. not trust the script to **inexperienced** screenwriters \_\_\_\_\_
11. was **supposed** to be an expert on dolphins \_\_\_\_\_
12. sought to **foster** the fragile relationship \_\_\_\_\_
13. a philosophy steeped in **enigma** \_\_\_\_\_
14. suspected that something had gone **awry** \_\_\_\_\_
15. released a **barrage** of rockets \_\_\_\_\_

## Antonyms

Choose the word from this unit that is **most nearly opposite** in meaning to the **boldface** word or expression in the given phrase. Write the word on the line provided.

16. began to **admire** the new leader's policies \_\_\_\_\_
17. had no **subsequent** arrests \_\_\_\_\_
18. noticed the **perfection** in her character \_\_\_\_\_
19. committed a **petty** violation of the law \_\_\_\_\_
20. an issue of **secondary** importance \_\_\_\_\_

## Choosing Right

1. Under t  
**flawed**
2. She ma  
certainl
3. How ca  
violatio
4. As sup  
clear th
5. Please  
more li
6. I can fo  
errors t
7. I am di  
land or
8. Since t  
had pr
9. *Romeo*  
(**brawl**)
10. Abraha  
**flawed**
11. The ea  
(**parad**)
12. She wo  
(**profic**)
13. It was  
standi
14. The ch  
openir
15. No pai  
many
16. The ra  
**fledgl**
17. A hap  
the ev
18. To say  
mean
19. Thoug  
becor
20. (**Fore**  
come

# Choosing the Right Word

Circle the **boldface** word that more satisfactorily completes each of the following sentences.

1. Under the American system of justice, any person accused of a crime is (**presumed, flawed**) to be innocent until proven guilty.
2. She may have given wrong information in court, but this was an honest mistake and certainly does not make her guilty of (**perjury, wrath**).
3. How can you expect the court to excuse your repeated and (**flagrant, vigilant**) violations of the traffic laws?
4. As support for our candidate continued to gain (**momentum, salvo**), it soon became clear that she would win the election by a landslide.
5. Please don't take it (**amiss, notably**) if I suggest that your French accent sounds more like Paris, Texas, than Paris, France.
6. I can forgive an honest mistake, but I (**presume, detest**) any attempt to cover up errors by lying.
7. I am disturbed by the (**momentum, paradox**) of impoverished people in the richest land on Earth.
8. Since there had been no (**prior, proficient**) notice of the scholarship competition, we had practically no time to prepare for it.
9. *Romeo and Juliet* opens with members of the rival houses of Montague and Capulet (**brawling, perjuring**) in the streets of Verona.
10. Abraham Lincoln had very little formal schooling, but his mind was (**nurtured, flawed**) by such great works as the Bible and the plays of Shakespeare.
11. The easternmost tip of Cuba was the first populated area in the region to feel the (**paradox, wrath**) of Hurricane Zelda.
12. She worked so easily and quietly that at first we did not realize how remarkably (**proficient, amiss**) she was in the laboratory.
13. It was hard to believe that the small, rather ordinary-looking person who was standing before us was a world-famous (**notable, fledgling**).
14. The charges of incompetence the candidate leveled at her opponent were but the opening (**brawl, salvo**) in her campaign to become mayor.
15. No parent can ever be (**vigilant, amiss**) enough to prevent a small child from taking many a painful tumble.
16. The rather skinny boy whom we had noticed only two years before as a (**prior, fledgling**) quarterback was now an all-American!
17. A happy (**domestic, nurture**) life can afford an executive a great deal of relief from the everyday strains of running a large company.
18. To say that the U.S. Constitution is one of the greatest documents of all time does not mean that it is entirely without (**momentum, flaws**).
19. Though I hadn't expected to be treated quite so unkindly by the audience, I didn't become (**flustered, nurtured**) or lose my professional cool.
20. (**Foremost, Flagrant**) among the reasons that so many millions of immigrants have come to the United States is the desire for freedom.

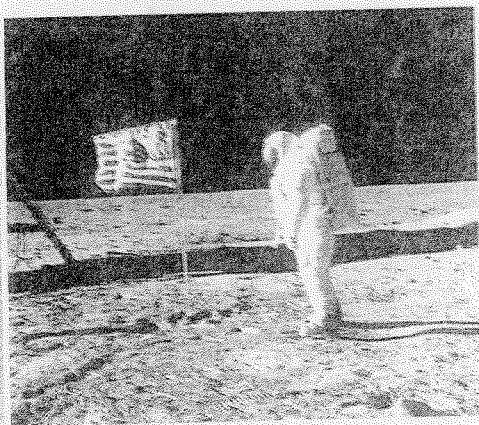
## Vocabulary in Context

Read the following passage, in which some of the words you have studied in this unit appear in **boldface** type. Then complete each statement given below the passage by circling the letter of the item that is **the same** or **almost the same** in meaning as the highlighted word.

### The Space Race

Have you ever heard of the Cold War? If so, then you are familiar with one of the greatest **paradoxes** of the twentieth century: from 1948 to 1989, a war without warfare existed between the United States and the Soviet Union.

A **notable** feature of the Cold War was the race to explore space. On October 4, 1957, the Soviets launched the space race by putting the world's first satellite, *Sputnik*, into orbit around the earth. Not to be outdone, the United States retaliated by sending into space a satellite of its own. Also in 1958, Congress established the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). The main task of the **fledgling** agency was to keep up with the Soviets in the space race.



Buzz Aldrin on the moon, July 20, 1969

NASA faced its first great challenge in 1961. In April the Soviet cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin became the first person to orbit the earth, giving the space race new **momentum**.

Less than a month after Gagarin's flight, Alan Shepard became the first American to make a space flight. Nine months later, John Glenn made three orbits of the earth. During this time, President John F. Kennedy proclaimed that the **foremost** goal of the nation's space program was to land a man on the moon before the end of the decade. The question in the minds of Americans was, could the nation meet the President's challenge? Americans also wondered if

NASA could land an astronaut on the moon *before* the Soviets.

Then just as the decade was ending, NASA achieved its greatest triumph. On July 20, 1969, the spacecraft *Eagle* landed on the surface of the moon. With millions watching around the world, Neil Armstrong took his famous moonwalk. With Armstrong's first step, the Americans had won the space race.

1. The meaning of **paradoxes** (line 2) is
- |               |                   |
|---------------|-------------------|
| a. statements | c. contradictions |
| b. lies       | d. donnybrooks    |

2. **Notable** (line 4) is best defined as
- |               |            |
|---------------|------------|
| a. trifling   | c. petty   |
| b. noteworthy | d. foreign |

3. **Fledgling** (line 9) most nearly means
- |                |                |
|----------------|----------------|
| a. budding     | c. birdlike    |
| b. high-flying | d. experienced |

4. **Momentum** (line 14) is best defined as
- |               |               |
|---------------|---------------|
| a. perfection | c. importance |
| b. minute     | d. impetus    |

5. The meaning of **foremost** (line 20) is
- |              |           |
|--------------|-----------|
| a. paramount | c. last   |
| b. secondary | d. valued |



## Definitions

1. **abnormal**  
(ab nôr' mäl)

2. **capsize**  
(kap' sîz)

3. **catastrophe**  
(kâ tas' trâ fê)

4. **decrease**  
(v., di krēs';  
n., dē' krēs)

5. **disputatiou**  
(dis pyū ta')

6. **eject**  
(i jekt')